

1696—June 30, first stone of Greenwich Hospital laid.
 1698—First workhouse erected in London; erected in Bishopsgate-street, next door to Sir Paul Pindar's.
 1705—Tottenham-court-road first paved.
 1709—Marlborough House built.
 1714—Feb. 25, first stone of the church of St. Mary-le-Strand laid.
 1715—Cavendish-square commenced.
 1720—House designed for the Duke of Chandos, on the north side of Cavendish-square, began to be built.
 1721—Present church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields built.
 1723—Feb. 25, Sir Christopher Wren died.
 1724—March 23, church of St. George's, Hanover-square, consecrated.
 1732—Aug. 3, first stone of Bank of England laid.
 1732-33—March, Seville-row, Burlington-gardens, laid out.
 1735—Westminster Abbey towers completed.
 1736—June 2, the area of Lincoln's Inn-fields railed in.
 1738-39—Jan. 29, first stone of Westminster-bridge laid.
 1753—Horse Guards built.
 1753—Mansion House finished.
 1764—Portman-square commenced.
 1775—The present Somerset House commenced building.
 1777—Portland-place built.
 1778—Marybone Gardens closed and the site let to builders (*Lysons*, iii. 245).
 1790—April 9, first stone of Novosielski's Opera House laid.
 1795—Sept. 17, Covent Garden Church, built by Inigo Jones, burnt down.
 1807—Jan. 28, gas first employed; Pall Mall the first street lighted with gas, through the sanguine perseverance of a German named Winsor; Bishopsgate-street was the second street in London lighted with gas.
 1811—Oct. 11, first stone of Waterloo-bridge laid; it was then called the Strand-bridge."

In seeking to give an idea of the book, our object must be to extract those portions which may be most interesting to our readers.

Speaking of *Aldersgate-street*, and first quoting Howell, who, in his "Londinopolis," published in 1657, said this street resembled an Italian street more than any other in London, "by reason of the spaciousness and uniformity of buildings, and straightness thereof, with the convenient distance of the houses," he says,—

"On the east side (distinguished by a series of eight pilasters) stands Thanet House, one of Inigo Jones's fine old mansions, the London residence of the Tuftons, Earls of Thanet. From the Tufton family it passed into the family of Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury (d. 1682-3); hence Shaftesbury-place and Shaftesbury House, as Walpole calls it in his account of Inigo Jones. In 1708 it was once more in the possession of the Thanet family; in 1720 it was a handsome inn; in 1734 a tavern; in 1750 the London Lying-in Hospital; and in 1848 a general dispensary." A little higher up on the same side, where Lauderdale-buildings stand, stood Lauderdale House, the London residence of John Maitland, Duke of Lauderdale (d. 1682), one of the celebrated cabal in the reign of Charles II. On the same side, still higher up, and two doors from Barbican, stood the 'Bell Inn,' 'of a pretty good resort for waggons with meat.' From this inn, on the 14th July, 1618, John Taylor, the Water Poet, set out on his penniless pilgrimage to Scotland.† On the west side, a little beyond the church of St. Botolph, Aldersgate, is Trinity-court, so called from a brotherhood of the Holy Trinity, licensed by Henry VI., suppressed by Edward VI., and first founded in 1377, as a fraternity of St. Fabian and Sebastian. The hall was standing in 1790."‡

Under the head, *Bow-street, Covent Garden*, built 1637, we hear something of Grioling Gibbons, the carver, who "lived in a house

on the east side (about the middle of the street), from 1678 to 1721, the period of his death. The house was distinguished by the sign of 'The King's Arms.'* 'On Thursday the house of Mr. Gibbons, the famous carver, in Bow-street, Covent Garden, fell down; but by a special Providence none of the family were killed; but 'tis said a young girl, which was playing in the court [King's-court], being missing, is supposed to be buried in the rubbish.'—*Postman of Jan. 24, 1701-2*."

In a house at the upper end of this street, Bonnell Thornton "opened an exhibition of sign paintings,—a piece of inoffensive drollery, taken from the annual exhibition of pictures made by a society of artists, previous to the institution of the Royal Academy."

Of *Covent Garden* Mr. Cunningham says,—
 "Covent Garden, particularly so called, is the large and well proportioned square in which the market stands; with the arcade or piazza on the north and north-east side, Tavistock-row on the south, and the church of St. Paul's, Covent Garden, on the west. The square was formed (circ. 1631) at the expense of Francis, Earl of Bedford (d. 1641), and from the designs of Inigo Jones (d. 1652), though never completed or even perhaps designed in full. The arcade or piazza ran along the whole of the north and east side of the square; the church completed the west; and the south was girt by the wall of Bedford House garden and a grove or "small grotto of trees most pleasant in the summer season,"‡ and under which the first market was originally held. In the centre of the square was a column surmounted by a dial (but this was subsequent to Inigo Jones's time§), and the whole area was laid with gravel, and dry and well kept. The scene of Dryden's 'Sir Martin-Mar-All' is laid in this once fashionable quarter of the town, and the allusions to the square, the church, and the piazza, are of constant occurrence in the dramas of the age of Charles II. and Queen Anne."

Speaking of Cheapside, our author thus epitomises the history of the "Cross" which formerly stood there:—

"The Cross (one of the nine crosses erected by Edward I. to Eleanor his queen) stood in the middle of the street, facing Wood-street end. Eleanor died at Hardeby, near Lincoln, in the year 1290, and the king caused a cross to be set up in every place where her body rested on its way to Westminster Abbey. Cheapside was the intermediate resting-place between Waltham and Charing-cross, and 'Magister Michael de Cantuari, cementarius,' was the mason employed in the erection of the Cross. Its after history is interesting. John Hatherley, mayor, 're-edified the same in more beautiful manner' in 1441. It was new gilt over in 1522 against the coming of the Emperor Charles V., and again in 1533 against the coronation of Henry and Anna Boleyn; new burnished against the coronation of Edward VI.; new gilt in 1554 against the coming in of King Philip; 'broken and defaced,' 21st June, 1581; 'fastened and repaired' in 1595 and 1600; again defaced in 1600, and finally demolished Tuesday, May 2nd, 1643, in the mayoralty of Isaac Pennington, the regicide; 'and while the thing was a doing,' says Howell, 'there was a noyse of trumpets blew all the while.'"

The new Houses of Parliament are somewhat fully described, and a plan of the buildings is given.

* Black's Anecdote MSS., vol. 399.

† "They show, at Wilton, Inigo's designs for the piazzas of Covent Garden and Lincoln's Inn. They are not Inigo's, I think, but interesting, and of a later date."

‡ Strype, B. vi., p. 99.

§ 1668. Dec. 7. Received of the Right Honourable the Earl of Bedford, as a gratuity towards the erecting of 3 Columns . . . 200 0 0
 Ditto, Received from the Honourable Sir Charles Cotterell, Master of the Ceremonies, as a gift towards the said Columns . . . 10 0 0

1669. April 29. Received from the Right Honourable the Lord Ossili Holles, as a present towards the erecting of the aforesaid Columns . . . 10 0 0
 27 Nov. 1666. For Drawing a Modell of the Column to be presented to the Ventry . . . 5 10 0

8 Dec. 1666. To Mr. Wainwright for the 4 Columns . . . 3 0 0
Churchwarden's Accounts of St. Paul's, Covent Garden.

Respecting *Whitehall* the author has much curious information—

"The old Banqueting House was burnt down on Tuesday, the 12th of January, 1618-19, and the present Banqueting House, designed by Inigo Jones, commenced on the 1st of June, 1619, and finished on the 31st of March, 1622. 371., it appears, was paid to Inigo Jones, upon the Council's warrant of June 27th, 1619, 'for making two several models—the one for the Star Chamber, the other for the Banqueting House.'* This payment to Jones escaped the researches of Vertue, and the inquiries of Walpole; but a still more curious discovery which I have had the good fortune to make connected with our great architect, is the roll of the account of the Paymaster of the Works, of the 'Charges in building a Banqueting House at Whitehall, and erecting a new Pier in the Isle of Portland, for conveyance of stone from thence to Whitehall.' The sum received by the Paymaster 'for the new building of the Banqueting House, and the erecting a Pier at Portland,' was 15,648l. 3s. The expense of the Pier was 712l. 19s. 2d., and of the Banqueting House, 14,940l. 4s. 1d.; the expenditure exceeding the receipts by 5l. 0s. 3d. The account, it deserves to be mentioned, was not declared (i. e., finally settled) till the 29th of June, 1633, eleven years after the completion of the building, and eight after the death of King James; a delay confirmatory of the unwillingness of the father and son to bring the works at Whitehall to a final settlement. The Banqueting House at Whitehall is described in this account† as 'a new building, with a vault under the same, in length 110 feet, and in width 55 feet within; the wall of the foundation being its thickness 14 feet, and in depth 10 feet within ground, brought up with brick; the first story to the height of 16 feet, wrought of Oxfordshire stone, cut into rustique on the outside, and brick on the inside; the walls 8 feet thick, with a vault turned over on great square pillars of brick, and paved in the bottom with Purbeck stone; the walls and vaulting laid with finishing mortar; the upper story being the Banqueting House, 65 feet in height, to the laying on of the roof; the walls 5 feet thick, and wrought of Northamptonshire stone, cut in rustique, with two orders of columns and pilasters, Ionic and Composite, with their architrave, frieze, and cornice, and other ornaments; also rails and ballusters round about the top of the building, all of Portland stone, with fourteen windows on each side, and one great window at the upper end, and five doors of stone with frontispiece and cartoozes; the inside brought up with brick, finished over with two orders of columns and pilasters, part of stone and part of brick, with their architectural frieze and cornice, with a gallery upon the two sides, and the lower end borne upon great cartoozes of timber carved, with rails and ballusters of timber, and the floor laid with spruce deals; a strong timber roof covered with lead, and under it a ceiling divided into a fret made of great cornices enriched with carving; with painting, glazing, &c.; for performance thereof a great quantity of stone hath been digged at Portland quarry, in the County of Dorset, and Huddlestons quarry, in the County of York.' The masons' wages were from 12d. to 2s. 6d. the man per diem; the carpenters were paid at the same rate; while the bricklayers received from 14d. to 2s. 2d. the day. The master mason was Nicholas Stone, the sculptor of the fine monument to Sir Francis Vere in Westminster Abbey. His pay was 4s. 10d. the day."‡

When the reader has been through Mr. Cunningham's book he will be quite ready to exclaim with us,—Wonderful London!

IMPORTATION OF ZINC.—Rods rolled for bolts being considered chargeable with duty as being in a partly manufactured state, importers recently urged the authorities for their decision. Directions have accordingly been given for the free admission of zinc rods.

* Revels at Court, p. 48.

† Preserved in the Audit Office.

‡ Walpole, by Dallaway, ii. 58.

* Halton, p. 623. Strype's *Stow*, B. iii. p. 131. Ralph's *Crit. Rev.* Pennant.

† Taylor, in his *Carrier's Cosmographie* (4to., 1687) mentions four inns in this street—the *Peacock*, the *Bell*, the *Three Horse Shoes*, the *Cock*.

‡ There is a view of the old Hall in Strype's *Londinopolis*, 8 vols. 12mo., 1697.